ELECTRICAL SECRETARIAT.

Administration Report of the Electrical Department for the year 1926-27.

READ—

Letter No. 26382, dated the 15th October 1927, from the Chief Electrical Engineer submitting the Administration Report of the Electrical Department for the year 1926-27.

ORDER No. E. D. S.—524-31, DATED 30TH JANUARY 1928.

Recorded.

2. Besides the work of maintenance and operation, the Department was engaged during the year on the execution of works relating to VII Installation and Electrification of several Towns and supply of power to the Hulikere Tunnel Works. Action was taken in connection with the scheme for the supply of electric pumps for irrigation purposes and the reconstruction of the Mysore-Bangalore Telephone System. Rates have been reduced for lighting and minor industries to encourage their development and stimulate further consumption. Thus the policy that is being pursued is directed towards the extended use of electric power in various directions.

The system of accounts and audit now in-force was subjected to independent examination by an experienced Firm, *viz.*, Messrs. Ferguson & Co., Chartered Accountants, Bombay. They have certified to the good work done by the Financial Branch under new and difficult conditions. (*Vide* G. O. No. El. 2320-79—G. F. 271-26-9, dated 23rd September 1927.)

3. The estimates for gross expenditure under Capital Depreciation and working charges of the department and of revenue during the three years 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27 were as follows :—

Year	*Gross expenditure*	*Revenue*
1924-25	31,83,800	46,75,000
1925-26	40,70,219	44,32,000
1926-27	41,83,300	43,96,000

The bulk of the increase in expenditure is due to the VII Installation Works which are still in progress and have not yet begun to earn revenue.

4. *Revenue Receipts.*—The gross receipts for the year under review fall short of the estimate by one and one-third lakhs. In the previous year the variation between the estimate and the actuals was nearly Rupees five lakhs. This is too large. The gross demand for the year amounted to Rs. 39,89,016 as against Rs. 39,89,546 in 1925-26. It is a matter for satisfaction to note that there has been considerable reduction in arrears at the close of the year under review due to the collection of all the Mining Companies' Bills for April 1927 before the 30th June 1927. In future the Chief Electrical Engineer is requested to take necessary action to realise if possible the Kolar Gold Fields power bills of each month before the expiry of the second succeeding month at the latest so as to minimise variations between the estimates and the actuals of gross receipts.

Reduction in Revenue.—The causes for the large fall in the earnings of the Department have been fully analysed in the review on the last year's report. The revision of rates for supply of electrical power for lighting and minor industries has not yet resulted in increased consumption as anticipated. Some explanation might have been furnished as to the existence or otherwise of any signs of increase in the consumption of power. This point may be touched upon in future reports. It is reported that the consumption of power by the Mining Companies is now steadily increasing but no marked improvement is noticeable in the monthly returns.

5. *Capital Outlay.*—The net outlay during the year was Rs. 13,88,768 under capital and Rs. 3,41,563, under Depreciation Fund Accounts. The total outlay on the Electrical Works from the commencement up to the end of the year under review is Rs. 2,14,14,596.

The most important capital work under construction during the year was the VII Installation. This work which was sanctioned by Government in July 1925 for generating 14,000 H. P. at Sivasamudram is making good progress, the total outlay on this work to the end of the year being Rs. 22,12,869 of which Rs. 16,58,193 was incurred during the year. The items of important works relating to this Installation, in progress during the year, were (1) Construction of New Head Gates, (2) Raising the Main Anicut, (3) Extending Generating Station and installation of two generating units with accessories, (4) Modifications to Forebay and Power Channels, (5) Extensions at Kolar Gold Fields and Mysore, (6) Remodelling of the Transmission Line to Kolar.

Remodelling Bangalore Transmission Line.—The work was completed during the year and the lines opened for service on 30th January 1927 through the New Station, by His Highness the Yuvaraja. As a result of this, the capacity of the lines is increased to meet the growing demand for power in Bangalore in all directions, and the line loss is reduced to a commercial percentage.

The electrification scheme in progress during the year were those of Bowringpet, Channapatna and Hulikere Tunnel. The other schemes of electrification sanctioned or awaiting execution are those of Tumkur and Kolar.

The re-construction of the Telephone system for Bangalore and Mysore has not yet been taken up and it is stated that it will be completed in the current year. It is hoped the system will be ready for use before the close of the year.

6. *Revenue Expenditure.*—Having regard to the fact that receipts during the year include the collection of thirteen months' bills of the Mining Companies, comparison of the year's working expenses with those in the previous year can best be made with reference to the ratio of working expenses to Gross Demand instead of to actual collection—this works out to 22·5 per cent against 21·66 per cent in the previous year and 18·27 per cent in the year 1924-25. These figures point to the necessity for effecting economics wherever possible to reduce the percentage.

The figures that are given show the working expenses of many other commercial installations as being much higher than those of the Mysore Installation. But no proper basis of comparison has been given to judge of the comparative costs.

7. The quantity of power generated in 1922-23 was 141 million K. W. H. and the cost was 1·092 pies per K. W. H. Compared with that year, the cost of generation has been more in 1926-27. It is hoped the Department will endeavour to reduce this cost.

Necessary statistics of actual Horse Power supplied to the Mining Companies, Industrial works and lighting purposes have not been furnished by the Chief Electrical Engineer as in the previous year. He has furnished information only as to peak loads. The information required in para 6 of Government Order of 6th February 1924 reviewing the Administration Report of the year 1922-23, has not been given in the report. It may be furnished now and in future reports without fail.

8. The amount credited to Depreciation Fund Account was Rs. 7,29,631 as agains Rs. 6,77,804, during 1925-26. The net amount accumulated to the credit of this accoun at the end of the year 1926-27, was Rs. 55,85,770. As regards the proposal for reducing the present rate of Depreciation, the matter is under examination and final orders of Government may be awaited.

9. *Contribution Works.*—Works agregating Rs. 2,33,042, were carried out by the Electrical Department for other Government Departments and private bodies. Out of the total amount of Rs. 2,33,042, referred to, as much as Rs. 2,16,389, was incurred in the Mysore Power and Lighting Section alone.

10. In spite of the increase in the number of installations the gross demand shows no improvement. The reasons for this may be explained.

11. *Rebate.*—The average consumption for the year, for revenue purposes was 14,107 H. P., *i.e.*, 1,095 H. P. less than that in 1924-25, *vide* page 3 of the Chief Electrical Engineer's Report.

12. *Stores.*—As detailed instructions have been issued in the Government Order of 23rd September 1927, for an annual review of the stores transactions as in the Railway Department, for elimination of surplus and obsolete stores, for reducing unnecessary locking up of funds under stores balances, for separating the special stores intended for big capital works from the rest and for an overhaul of the stores balances by a Committee of Departmental Officers, the Chief Electrical Engineer's special attention is invited to paras 12 to 16 of the said order for taking necessary action without delay.

13. *Interruptions.*—It is observed that there were 61 interruptions to service as against 44 during 1925-26 and 216 during 1924-25.

14. *Inspection of Accounts and Sections.*—During the year under review the Chief Electrical Engineer and his Assistant inspected the Stores and Accounts of all the Sections, as also the works of the Department. The Financial Assistant to the Chief Electrical Engineer, in his inspections of the several sections, conducted a detailed examination of the initial accounts also. The Accounts Assistant conducted the internal audit, reconciliation of the statements of differences in the countings of stock, etc.

15. The net revenue for the year is shown as 7·9 per cent on the total capital outlay after deducting interest charges. But this does not take into account the return on the expenditure on the Krishnarajasagara Reservoir. While reviewing the Administration Report for 1925-26, it was directed that the return on the combined scheme, *viz.*, Cauvery Power and the Krishnarajasagara, might be given if possible in future reports. This information has not been furnished as it is reported to be not available in the Chief Electrical Engineer's Office. The Comptroller is requested to furnish this information in future.

16. Government, in reviewing the reports of the Chartered Accountants and the Comptroller, on the accounts of the Department have in their order dated the 23rd September 1927, observed with satisfaction that considerable improvement has been noticeable in the initial accounts, that the preaudit of bills has been effective in obviating difficulties and irregularities, and that the transactions of the Sectional Officers are subjected to thorough scrutiny. It is hoped that the Financial Branch will develop further means of scrutiny and check on the working of this very important and growing Department.

17. In addition to the supply of power for Bowringpet, Kolar, Channapatna and Tumkur recently sanctioned by Government, investigations are also being made for the electrification of Shimoga, Chamrajnagar, Nanjangud, Seringapatam, Closepet, Dodballapur and several other Towns. Attempts are being made to encourage pumping installations for irrigation purposes within ten miles of the Cities of Mysore, Closepet, Bangalore, Soldevanhalli, Kolar Gold Fields, Bowringpet and other places near the transmission system. Encouragement of the use of Electric Power for Irrigation and Minor Industries in all these places will constitute one of the main activities of the Department in the future.

18. Government are pleased to note that the working of the Department during the year continued to be satisfactory.

K. R. SESHACHAR,
Secretary to Government,
Electrical Department.